

A. A. DORRANCE, formerly connected with the Standard Vacuum Oil Company in Hankow, and presently connected with U.N.R.R.A. in Nanking, deposes and states as follows:

During the latter part of October 1938, the next morning following the capitulation of Hankow to the Japanese forces, I, who was then Manager of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company in Hankow and the interior of China along the Yangtze, went on board an American gunboat which was anchored next to the Customs Gangway in the Yangtze at Hankow. I stood on the bridge of this ship with the ship's officers and watched the Japanese soldiers select isolated Chinese prisoners from those herded together in a large group of several hundred next to the Customs House. The Japanese would apparently casually select two or three Chinese soldiers at a time and would walk these Chinese prisoners down the gangplank. Upon arrival at the river, which was a good 75 yards from the shore, the Japanese would throw open the coats of the soldiers, many of whom were dressed in civilian clothes, and might have been civilians, in order to determine whether or not the Chinese had fired a gun, as apparently the shoulders would show some bruise. Then the Japanese would very indifferently and with no sign of apparent interest, kick the Chinese into the river and shoot them as soon as their heads appeared above water. This action was carried out repeatedly and was not stopped until the Japanese saw us watching them.

Thereafter the Japanese would likewise select Chinese at random from the group of prisoners held by the Customs building and would take three or four at a time out in one of the Japanese launches. The launch would proceed mid-stream and the Chinese would again be thrown overboard and shot. This was carried on indefinitely, but when the Japanese saw that we were likewise watching these incidents, they made a very obvious show of friendliness by handing the Chinese cigarettes, etc., and attempted to make it appear as if they were merely taking the Chinese, as friends, for a launch ride.

I was Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hankow at the time and also acted on various committees for relief, policing, etc. It, therefore, fell in line of my duties to travel about the city in an attempt to maintain electric light service, water service, etc. The morning after the Japanese arrival almost every street corner in the former Hankow foreign concession was littered with Chinese civilian dead who had obviously been summarily shot with their hands wired behind them. I did not, of course, witness the shooting, but saw innumerable bodies which remained on the streets for several days.

The incidents which I have outlined above can be verified by any of the foreigners who were in Hankow at that time.

A. A. DORRANCE

Subscribed and sworn to before  
me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June 1946.

COLONEL THOS. H. MORROW